

Northern Virginia Regional Partnership Planning Project
Steering Committee Meeting
March 31, 2004

In Attendance:

Jane Anthony, NVTC Parent/PAIR
George Barker, HSANV
Mary Ann Beall, NoVA MH Consumers
Association
Ray Bridge, NoVA MH Consumers Association
Mary Burger, Loudoun CSB
Jessica Burmester, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Lynn DeLacy, NVMHI
Mark Diorio, NVTC
Joan Durman, Durman Associates
Amanda Goza, NVMHI
Wendy Gradison, PRS

Betsy Greer, NAMI Arlington/Arlington CSB
(Board Member)
Joe Hinshaw, NVMHI Advisory Council
Sharon Jones, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Leslie Katz, NVTC
Edwin H. Kline, Sr., NVMHI
Cathy Pumphrey, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Lou Rosato, NVMHI
Ilene Steinman, Alexandria CSB
Jim Thur, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Leslie Weisman, Arlington CSB

Jim Thur welcomed the group and introductions were made.

1. Announcements

- There were no announcements.

2. Approval of Notes from February 25, 2004 Meeting

The notes of the February 25, 2004 meeting were accepted as presented.

3. Updates:

- Mental Health Work Group – Leslie Weisman reported that the Mental Health Work Group last met on March 10 and had a discussion about the state special population groups. They are also working with Joan Durman on the Partnership report and how to keep the work alive after the identified project timeframe. Leslie also provided updates on the subgroups of the MH Work Group:
 - Leslie indicated that the Recovery group is a large and enthusiastic group with a great variety of representation. The Recovery group is planning a conference in early September for consumers, family members and professionals about the recovery model. The group is also surveying the use of the Recovery model around the area, and that will be a topic of discussion at the conference. Mr. Thur asked that the Recovery group provide the CSB Executive Directors with budget/logistics information on the conference as soon as it is available.
 - The Forensics group met on March 30, and they crystallized the issues to be worked on over the next few months. One of their identified tasks is creating a NGRI handbook which would be useful for consumers, lawyers, and family members. Leslie reported that the group had an excellent meeting in December where they got feedback from persons NGRI on what kinds of information to put in this handbook. The group is looking into

revocations, which are a primary problem area with SA consumers. They are looking at the continuum of care when persons leave state facilities as well as reviewing possibilities for improving communication around consumers from Central State who come to the Institute. The group also plans to look at trends in admission from Central State Hospital and Western State Hospital.

- The Co-occurring Disorders group is mostly comprised of SA staff from CSBs, and is an enthusiastic but new group. They have developed mission and value statements and are working closely with the State special populations workgroup.
- MR/MI Work Group – Mark Diorio indicated that the group looked at priority list of recommendations to finalize items that can be accomplished on a program level. Two such items are an educational brochure on dual diagnosis, which the Family group is developing, and educating law enforcement personnel on how to work with persons who are dually diagnosed. Mark indicated that he will have a draft report from the MR/MI group prior to the next Steering Committee meeting.
- Private Psychiatric Hospitals – George Barker provided information on the latest developments with regard to local private psychiatric beds. He noted that current proposals involve a substantial reduction of psychiatric beds – 92 beds in total.
 - HCA – As background information, George indicated that last year the State Health Commissioner turned down HCA's proposal to build a new hospital facility in Ashburn and close Dominion and Northern Virginia Community Hospitals. HCA submitted a slightly revised proposal this year which the Commissioner approved, while denying a proposal from Loudoun Hospital to expand its Leesburg operations. George indicated that both Loudoun Hospital and the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia plan to appeal the decision, and it will likely go to court though it is not expected to be overturned. HCA doesn't have a special exception application from the Loudoun Board of Supervisors to build the new hospital in Ashburn and there is uncertainty as to if they will give permission. George feels that Loudoun Hospital is unlikely to survive if the new hospital is built. He indicated that if the HCA application goes forward, psychiatric beds at Dominion and Northern Virginia Community Hospitals will be closed. The Dominion Hospital closure would have significant effect since the proposed new location of the 40 youth psychiatric beds (Ashburn) is not centrally located within the region. There will be transportation issues for persons on day hospitalization as well as difficulties maintaining family involvement in services. George said it is possible that Northern Virginia Community Hospital could close with very little notice.
 - Inova – George explained that Inova has filed an application for 7 additional psychiatric beds at Mount Vernon Hospital and the closure of Alexandria Hospital's psychiatric unit effective September 1. The two actions would result in a net reduction of 12 psychiatric beds and there will be a public hearing on that application soon.
 - Potomac Hospital – Jim Thur reported that he learned Potomac Hospital plans to close their psychiatric unit effective October 1.
 - Virginia Hospital Center – George reported that Virginia Hospital Center is adding adult psychiatric beds. During construction, they downsized from 40 to 20 beds but plan to reopen the beds at full capacity in October.

Mary Ann Beall asked if the number of beds potentially being reduced could be translated into a number of episodes of hospitalization. Jim Thur indicated that will be done and will be included in the Partnership's report. Leslie Weisman noted that the psychiatric bed situation is already a crisis, even before these closures.

- Structural Work Group – Jim Thur reviewed handout titled “Draft Proposed Structure – Region II: Version 5b” and “Participants in the Northern Virginia Strategic Planning Partnership”. These draft documents need to be finalized prior to their use in public meetings; the group provided feedback on revisions. Jim indicated that funding is needed in each region to do this planning and the DMHMRSAS Commissioner has indicated he will try to provide that funding. Ray Bridge asked where DAD fits in the draft plan for a Coordinating Committee, and Jim replied that group wouldn't be a legal entity which could control money, so it could not oversee DAD. Betsy Greer asked what would become of the work that's already been done by partnership group, and Jim responded that the recommendations which we have control over will be listed separately from State-level actions in the final Partnership report. Jim suggested one possibility would be the development of specialized regional programs using existing funding.
- Utilization Management/Discharge Planning Work Group – Lynn DeLacy indicated that the group met on March 23, and their focus is on joint ownership of the need for services and identifying what array of services is needed in the community. The Project Management Council is talking about the structures in place around the state for private bed purchases and private/public partnerships to see what's been successful around the State. Lynn reported that Sharon Jones is on this group and has provided a strong leadership voice. Lynn mentioned the importance of talking about how successful this area has been with public/private partnerships. Ray Bridge noted the value of consumer satisfaction surveys. Lynn indicated that discharge protocols are being developed and will have a 60 day public comment period.
- RPAC – Several group members were scheduled to attend this meeting on April 2.

4. Preliminary Review of Report Recommendations

Jim Thur briefly reviewed DMHMRSAS' preliminary draft “Guidance for Regional Partnership Strategic Plans and Recommendations” which will be discussed at the RPAC meeting on April 2. Jim asked that comments on this document be E-mailed to him or Lynn DeLacy by March 31. He noted the document mentions a conference to be held in December 2004 or January 2005 and the group discussed if that timeframe seemed realistic. Group members indicated they feel it would be valuable to have a conference to facilitate discussion and idea sharing, and suggested that early January might be a good time since legislators will be in town but the legislative session will not have started.

Jim Thur asked the group if they felt the work of the Partnership should continue and the group indicated its support. Joan Durman commented that the actual work groups are doing much more exciting work than can fit within the State's mold of the report. Jim indicated that the regional CSA coordinators want to collaborate with the Partnership on children's issues, including the lack of intensive children's services in the area and the desire to do more work on a regional level. He added that he recently met with representatives for gero-psychiatric services, and they want to be a work group for next year as well.

5. Discussion of Community Forums and Consumer Focus Groups

Joan Durman reviewed a handout on the proposed slides for the upcoming Community Forums, explaining that this is a process for people to provide feedback, not solely an educational presentation. The group suggested not holding the forums by localities, but instead holding them regionally. Jane Anthony suggested making a video of the program and airing it on the local government channels. The group suggested holding a single community forum on a Saturday morning, with CSBs providing transportation with vans where possible/needed.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting:

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2004 at the Fairfax County Government Center in Conference Room 232.

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